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STEVENAGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

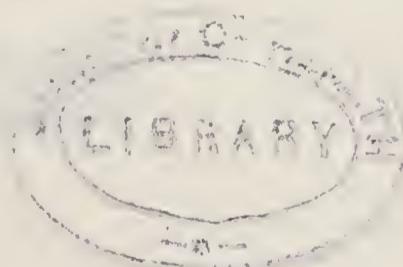
ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

FOR THE YEAR

1955



Including also the

REPORT OF THE

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

STEVENAGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS:

1955

District Medical Officer of Health (and Divisional Medical
Officer for North Herts. Area)

VICTOR R. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.,
Divisional Health Office,
12 Broad Street,
HITCHIN.

(Telephone: Hitchin 3757)

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

HORACE PODEN, M.S.I.A.,
(Retired - 31.8.55)

ROBERT V. LAMEY, M.S.I.A.,
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods
(Royal Sanitary Institute)

Additional Sanitary Inspector.

A.E. FLINTOFF. A.R. San.I.
(Commenced - 1.9.55.)

Council Offices,
Orchard Road,
Stevenage.

(Telephone: Stevenage 436 - 438)

STEVENAGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1955

To the Chairman and Members of the Stevenage
Urban District Council.

I beg to present the above report prepared in accordance with the
directions of Ministry of Health Circular 1/1954.

SECTION A.

LOCAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	5,895
Home Population - Mid 1955 (Registrar General's Estimate) -					
Constructed for revised boundary.	...			18,140	
Number of inhabited houses at 31.12.55.			5,813		
Rateable Value (31.12.55)				£121,276	
Sum represented by a Penny Rate..					£501

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR
THE YEAR 1955.

<u>Stevenage</u>	<u>Comparabile</u>
<u>Urban</u>	<u>rate for</u>
<u>District</u>	<u>England &</u>
	<u>Wales.</u>

LIVE BIRTHS.

		<u>Totals</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
(Legitimate	...	509	271	238	
(Illegitimate	...	7	6	1	
All	...				
		<u>516</u>	<u>277</u>	<u>239</u>	

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated
resident population 28.4 15.0

STILLBIRTHS

		<u>Totals</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
(Legitimate	...	9	8	1	
(Illegitimate	...	-	-	-	
All	...				
		<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>	

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births. 17.1 23.1

Totals Male Female

DEATHS 109 56 53

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated
resident population. ... 6.0 11.7

SECTION A - Contd.

	<u>Stevenage Urban District</u>	<u>Comparable rate for England & Wales</u>
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DEATH RATES OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

All infants per 1,000 live births 11.6 24.9

Rate for legit. infants per 1,000 legitimate births ... 11.6

Rate for illegit. infants per 1,000 illegitimate births ... -

Actual number of such deaths:-

(a) Under 4 weeks and (b) Under 1 year.

Legitimate	...	5	6
Illegitimate	...	-	-
		<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>

Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth or abortion 1.

Deaths from Cancer (all sites) 25.

Deaths from Measles. -

Deaths from Whooping Cough -

Deaths from other infective and parasitic diseases. -

Comment on Vital Statistics.

With the total of livebirths for the year now nearly five times the local figure of registered deaths, Stevenage is seen to be a very young town. At 6.0 the local death rate is far below the national rate of 11.7, reflecting the much younger-than-average distribution of new population, and the Registrar General again supplies a Comparability Factor of 1.26 which produces a standardised death rate of only 7.6.

The estimated mid-year population for 1955 of 18,140 (an increase of 4,040) is already much out of date through the rate of inward migration.

The local stillbirth rate is seen to fall well below the national figure while the local infant mortality rate (11.6) is again less than half the record low rate for England and Wales (24.9).

The following table shows the main local vital statistics over the ten years 1946-55:-

		<u>Birth Rate.</u>	<u>Death Rate.</u>	<u>Infant Mort. Rate.</u>
1955	...	28.4	6.0	11.6
1954	...	29.1	6.8	12
1953	...	24.8	7.7	29
1952	...	20.8	7.7	6
1951	...	18.4	10.4	16
1950	...	14.0	10.5	-
1949	...	16.9	13.1	18
1948	...	16.2	10.4	29
1947	...	18.5	12.1	26
1946	...	16.9	12.7	9

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

These are unchanged.

SECTIONS C. to E.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA,
HOUSING AND INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION
OF FOOD.

Full reports on the above are contained in the attached report of your Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and other Diseases

For the year local notifications of acute infectious diseases (after correction) were: Measles 489, Whooping Cough 24, Scarlet Fever 13, Acute Poliomyelitis 3 (Paralytic 2, Non-Paralytic 1,) Acute Pneumonia 5, Puerperal Pyrexia 2, and Food Poisoning 1.

Measles was epidemic in the early summer with a high incidence in the predominantly young local population.

Scarlet Fever cases were confined mainly to the first quartor of the year, sporadic in distribution and almost confined to pre-school and infant school ages, with little or no evidence of any spread in schools. Its severity continued uniformly mild.

Whooping Cough incidence was mild and mainly in the first quarter.

Acute Poliomyelitis was confined to three cases (one non-paralytic) in the Autumn, two being children and one adolescent. Subsequent reports give information of mild residual disability only in the two paralytic cases.

Food Poisoning was confined to one case, the causal organism being identified as *S.typhi-murium*, though the vehicle of infection was not ascertained.

Diphtheria was again absent from the district during the year. Despite continued rarity of this formerly dreaded disease the offer of infant protection by immunisation continues to be accepted by a good proportion of parents. For children under two years combined protection against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough is now available from Welfare Centres and Medical Practitioners.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Deaths during the year 1955

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 1	1							
1 - 5	2							
5 - 15	3(3)	1(1)			1(1)			
15 - 25	6(3)	9(8)						
25 - 35	14(10)	12(11)	1(1)					
35 - 45	2(1)	4(3)						
45 - 55	3(1)					1.		
55 - 65 and over		1.						
Not known								
Totals	31(18)	27(23)	1(1)	1(1)	1.	-	-	-

Deaths allocated by the Registrar-General after final transfers.

1. - - - -

Foot-note: Figures of new cases include inward transfers from other areas, the numbers of such being shown additionally in brackets.

Comment: In the continuously expanding local population new local notifications during the year are seen to number 17 cases, all respiratory (males 13, females 4); the figure for the previous year on a smaller population, was identical (7 males and 10 females). No local notification in respect of non-respiratory disease was recorded.

The large number of inward transfers to the local register is again of interest, indicating that selection of New Town residence is frequently influenced by a search for improved environment for a recognised adult case which has usually reached the classification 'quiescent'.

One death is recorded, in a middle-aged male, from respiratory disease.

In conclusion I would acknowledge having received every help during the year from your chief officers; particularly I would acknowledge the most valuable assistance from your Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. R.V.Lamey, who is responsible for the compilation of the Sanitary sections of this Report.

Your obedient servant,

V.R. Walker.

District Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the

Year

1955

To the Chairman and Members of the Stevenage
Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1955.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

i) Water Supply

The water undertaking is now vested in the Stevenage Development Corporation.

The town's main water supply is obtained from a borehole at Whitehall where a new pumping station has recently been completed. At present about 1 million gall/day are being used; the new station will be capable of supplying some 3.7 million gall/day when required by future development. Further work is proceeding at Pinn Green where a 2 million gallon storage reservoir is already in use. A further storage reservoir of similar size is now under construction, and a high level water storage tower of $\frac{1}{2}$ million gallon capacity should be completed within the next twelve months.

A reserve supply of approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ million gall/day is available from a borehole at Broomin Green. This supply is suspect, and is not used for drinking purposes. An adequate supply of water throughout the area is being maintained.

The water supply is regularly sampled by me. During the year 45 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service, Luton for bacteriological examination. 82 samples were also taken by the Stevenage Development Corporation's analysts Messrs. Rideal, Rideal and Scivier, London. 4 samples were submitted for Chemical Analysis and proved satisfactory.

ii) SEWAGE DISPOSAL

At present the Town's foul water drainage is treated at the Council's Sewage Disposal Works, although some of the newly developed areas already drain to Ryemead.

The Council's Sewage Disposal Works were, when constructed, situated well away from the main residential areas of the town. However, new development now taking place has resulted in the construction of neighbourhoods in the vicinity of the works, and complaints are now being received from tenants regarding the proximity of these works which are some 300 - 400 yds distance of occupied houses. The complaints are justified and raise a problem that will not be easy to solve.

iii) REFUSE COLLECTION

Public Cleansing Services together with the collection and disposal of refuse are supervised by the Council's Surveyor. Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping.

iv) SMOKE ABATEMENT

The Council have instructed me to arrange a Clean Air Exhibition. It is hoped that this exhibition will do much to emphasise the need for ensuring that the problems of atmospheric pollution which are present in so many of our larger towns and cities, will not be experienced in Stevenage when development is completed.

v) PETROLEUM INSTALLATIONS

32 licences for the storage of Petroleum and Petroleum Mixtures have been issued during the year.

5 new installations have been constructed in the recognised manner and have been subject to approved Air Pressure Tests on underground tanks and fuel lines.

vi) RODENT CONTROL

The following are details of Rodent Control Work carried out in the Town during the year:-

Total Inspections	...	...	...	1331
No. of infested properties found.				276
No. of infested properties treated.				276
Complaints received	...	...		216

The infestations were classified as follows:-

Major infestation - Rats	...	...	41
Minor infestation - Rats	...	...	.205
Minor infestation - Mice	...	...	30

Test baiting of sewers was carried out in accordance with the Ministry's requirements.

vii) KNACKERS YARD

There is one licensed Knackers Yard in the town, the meat from which is used for animal feeding only. Alterations and improvements have recently been made at the premises, and these include modern lairage, a new slaughter hall and separate stunning booth, electric hoists and runways, and ample refrigeration space including a deep freeze chamber. Hot and cold water and washing facilities are provided in the slaughter hall. The owner is to be congratulated on the high standards achieved and maintained. During the year 51 horses and 428 cattle were slaughtered.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREAANALYSIS OF VISITS

Disinfection	15
Drainage	43
Factories	71
Food Premises	246
Infectious Disease	10
Knackers Yards	27
Means of Escape in Case of Fire	3
Miscellaneous Visits	108
Moveable Dwellings	86
Outworkers	22
Petroleum Installations	32
Public Health & Housing Acts (Housing Defects)	1010
Rag Flock Act	6
Rodent Control	21
Sampling. Ice Cream	18
" Milk	14
" Water (Public Supply)	29
" Water (Wells)	16
" Other Samples	6
Schools	7
Slaughterhouses	210
Smoke Abatement	21

SECTION DHousing

In accordance with the provisions of Section I of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954, a housing survey of the older type property in the town has been made. Over 300 houses have been inspected and the Council's proposals for dealing with the unfit properties have been endorsed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

During the year 1010 housing inspections have been made under the Public Health and Housing Acts. Complaints were received both from tenants of older type property and from tenants of New Town Houses, although the latter complaints referred generally to varying degrees of dampness which were being experienced in a particular house type on one estate. The responsible Authorities were informed and remedial works were soon commenced and are still in progress.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING ACT.

Informal - Statutory notices served	77
Informal - Statutory notices complied	77

SECTION EInspection and Supervision of Food Premises.

Routine inspections of all food premises are regularly made, and many improvements have been effected in the older type premises in the town. Plans of all new food premises and alterations to existing shops are inspected for compliance with present day legislation.

i) Slaughterhouses & Meat Inspection.

3 premises in the town are licensed by the Council for private slaughtering, and 19 persons are licensed as Slaughtermen.

SECTION E - Contd.

i) Slaughterhouses & Meat Inspection - Contd.

A complete system of Meat Inspection is in operation, and every carcase is thoroughly inspected at the time of slaughter. Slaughtering often takes place outside normal office hours, and in order to maintain this complete inspection it has been necessary for work to continue during the evenings and often at weekends.

During the year 1468 animals were slaughtered and inspected in the private slaughterhouses and as a result of this inspection, 1 ton. 11 cwts. 2 Qrs. 12 lbs. (3,540 lbs) of meat and offal were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

The following table shows details of animals inspected and meat condemned during the year.

MEAT INSPECTION

ii)

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle includ- ing Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
<u>NUMBER KILLED</u>	508	22	640	298	Nil
<u>NUMBER INSPECTED</u>	508	22	640	298	Nil
<u>ALL CARCASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS & CYSTICERCI</u> Whole carcases condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	72	1	63	14	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	14.17	4.55	9.483	4.7	Nil
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</u> Whole carcases condemned,	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part of organ was condemned.	43	Nil	Nil	13	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	8.46	-	-	4.36	-
<u>CYSTICERCOSIS</u> Carcasses of which some part of organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned.	-	-	-	-	-

iii) Sampling

(a) Milk.

3 dairymen are registered for the sale of Tuberculin tested, Tuberculin Tested pasteurised, Pasteurised and Sterilised Milks. During the year 14 samples of milk were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Luton for examination. In all cases satisfactory results were obtained.

(b) Ice Cream.

19 persons are registered for the sale of Ice Cream. 18 samples were taken for analysis during the year and proved satisfactory on examination.

(c) Liquid Egg.

In view of the unsatisfactory results received in other parts of the Country on analysis of Chinese frozen liquid eggs, six samples of this product were taken at various premises in the town - bacteriological examinations were undertaken at the Public Health Laboratories, Luton, and in all cases satisfactory results were obtained.

iv) Unsound Food.

16 cwt., 2 qrs., 3 lbs., 14½ ozs. of various foods (other than meat condemned at the slaughter houses) were examined at various Food Premises in the Town and were subsequently condemned as being unfit for human consumption.

v) Industrial Canteens.

A high standard has been achieved in the design and equipment of these canteens in the newly constructed factories in the town. Routine inspections are regularly made.

vi) Mobile Shops.

Many mobile shops operate in the newly developed areas of the town; all mobile butchers and grocers shops are provided with hot and cold water for washing purposes, and in some cases refrigeration units are also carried.

vii) Food Hygiene Publicity.

In May of this year, photographs of certain food shops, factory canteens and mobile shops were taken in Stevenage by the Food Hygiene Division of the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food. These photographs are intended for use in Food Hygiene Exhibitions throughout the Country, as an example of model layout of food premises.

Yours obediently,

Robert V. Lane

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

October 1956
Council Offices,
Orchard Road,
Stevenage, Herts.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN
RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1955 FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF
STEVENAGE IN THE COUNTY OF HERTFORD.

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for the purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register.	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1) Factories in which Section 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	6	6	-	-
2) Factories not included in (1) above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	73	71	2	-
3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises).	28	22	-	-
Total	107	99	2	-

2. CASES in which DEFECTS WERE FOUND

	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspect:
Want of cleanliness (S.).				
Overcrowding (S.2.)				
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)				
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)				
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)				
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)				
(a) Insufficient				
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	1	1
(c) Not separate for sexes				
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).				
Total	2	2	1	1

